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Message Text

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20
ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 OC-06 CCO-00 A-01 OPR-02

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /040 W
---------- 070922
R 150826Z OCT 76
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1348
INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 11009

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AFSP, ACOM, ET
SUBJ: POUCH INSPECTION

REF: STATE 251195 (NOTAL)

1. WE HAVE CONCLUDED THAT IT WOULD BE AT LEAST MODERATELY HELPFUL TACTICALLY TO SEND NOTE IN SUPPORT OF WESTERN EUROPEAN INITIATIVE (REFTEL AND ADDIS 10909) AND DID SO MORNING OCT 15. IN PART OUR DECISION WAS INFLUENCED BY FEELING THAT OUR ACTION WOULD HELP TO STIMULATE OTHER MISSIONS TO WEIGH IN AS WELL, PARTICULARLY AFRICANS.

2. ACTING FONMIN HAS BEEN ILL ALL WEEK WITH RESULT THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO FURTHER CONTACT BETWEEN HIM AND CORPS. MANY MEMBERS OF CORPS ARE BUILDING UP THEIR HOPES THAT ETHIOPIANS WILL RELENT O/A OCT 19 WHEN LARGE BILL PHASE OF CURRENCY EXCHANGE HAS COME TO AN END. WE HOPE THEY ARE RIGHT, BUT THUS FAR, HAVE SEEN NO INDICATION THAT ETHIOPIANS ARE PLANNING ANY SUCH MOVE.

3. WE DO NOT HAVE FULL RUNDOWN BY ANY MEANS OF THOSE WHO HAVE SENT NOTES THUS FAR. MOST BUT NOT ALL OF WESTERN EUROPEANS INCLUDING UK, FRANCE, BELGIUM, AND SWITZERLAND HAVE. DUTCH AND ITALIANS ARE STILL AWAITING
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INSTRUCTIONS. IRANIANS AND ARGENTINIANS AMONG NON-

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EUROPEANS HAVE ALSO DONE SO, AS REPORTEDLY HAVE CZECHS.
JAPANESE APPARENTLY INTEND DO SO. AFRICANS SAY THEY
PLAN SEND NOTES BUT WILL PROBABLY WAIT FOR OCT 19.
SOME OF REMAINING ASIANS ARE TAKING SAME LINE.

4. TEXT OF OUR NOTE IS AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE: THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE PROVISIONAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT OF SOCIALIST
ETHIOPIA AND HAS THE HONOR TO REFER TO THE DECISIONS
TAKEN WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE MONETARY REFORM PROGRAM
BY THE PROVISIONAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT OF SOCIALIST
ETHIOPIA AS THEY RELATE TO THE INSPECTION OF DIPLOMATIC
POUCHES. THE EMBASSY FURTHER HAS THE HONOR TO REFER
TO THE REQUEST MADE THROUGH THE DEAN OF THE DIPLOMATIC
CORPS TO ALL MISSIONS IN ADDIS ABABA BY HIS EXCELLENCY,
THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, FOR COOPERATION WITH
THESE MEASURES, AND WISHES, IN LIGHT OF THIS REQUEST,
TO INFORM THE MINISTRY OF THE VIEWS OF THE UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT RELATIVE TO THIS MATTER:

1) THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FULLY UNDER-
STANDS THAT THERE MAY BE PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN
CARRYING OUT THE MONETARY REFORM PROGRAM, BUT IS
NONETHELESS UNABLE TO ACCEDE TO THE REQUEST BY THE
PROVISIONAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT OF SOCIALIST
ETHIOPIA THAT THE EMBASSY AGREE TO PERMIT THE
INSPECTION OF DIPLOMATIC POUCHES.

2) THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS THE
PRINCIPLE OF INVIOLABILITY OF DIPLOMATIC POUCHES
AS ABSOLUTE AND FIRMLY BELIEVES THAT IT IS THE
OBLIGATION OF ALL STATES TO ENSURE THAT THE
PRINCIPLE IS MAINTAINED.

3) THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FURTHER
BELIEVES THAT THE DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE PROVI-
SIONAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT OF SOCIALIST ETHIOPIA
WITH RESPECT TO DIPLOMATIC POUCHES ARE NOT CON-
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SISTENT WITH THE VIENNA CONVENTION ON DIPLOMATIC
RELATIONS OF 1961, NOR WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF
INTERNATIONAL LAW AND PRACTICE.

IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE EMBASSY HOPES THAT
THE PROVISIONAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT OF SOCIALIST ETHIOPIA
WILL TAKE APPROPRIATE STEPS TO WITHDRAW THE REQUIRE-
MENT THAT DIPLOMATIC POUCHES BE SUBMITTED TO INSPECTION

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AND WILL WELCOME AN EARLY DECISION TO THIS EFFECT.

THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AVAILS ITSELF OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW TO THE
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE PROVISIONAL MILITARY
GOVERNMENT OF SOCIALIST ETHIOPIA THE ASSURANCES OF ITS
HIGHEST CONSIDERATION. UNQUOTE
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